

Clinician Update

March 6, 2025



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Welcome VMG Anesthesia West

As of March 1, the former Mid-Atlantic Anesthesia Associates became VMG Anesthesia West. Our new colleagues were welcomed with celebration breakfasts this week. Virtua Anesthesia West will continue to cover Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Centennial Surgery Center, and Vantage Surgery Center.

“This group is committed to excellence and brings a rich legacy of exceptional clinical care to the communities we serve,” said Sam Weiner, MD, vice president and chief medical officer of Virtua Medical Group.

Virtua Anesthesia, which includes South, North, and West groups, now has over 200 highly skilled providers in more than eight locations throughout South Jersey. “For the people we serve, this shows our commitment to providing comprehensive, high-quality anesthesia services. We continue to strive to bring top-notch care to our most vulnerable and ambulatory patients,” said Dr. Weiner.

Structural Heart Team Marks Milestone

The Structural Heart Team at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital last week marked the 1,000th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) by Ibrahim Moussa, DO, FACC, FSCAI, RPVI, a mark of the trust South Jersey residents place in Virtua for their cardiac care.

“I would not have been able to reach 1,000 without the team in the cath lab—the nurses, the techs, the physicians in the room with me, and the referring physicians who trust us with the care we deliver to their patients,” said Dr.

Moussa, who serves as medical director of the Structural Heart Program. “People in South Jersey have a lot of choices. For them to come to us is a testament to the quality care that we provide.”

TAVR treats aortic stenosis. During the minimally invasive procedure, the interventional cardiologist (backed by a cardiothoracic surgeon) threads a catheter through an artery in your groin to your heart. Once in place, the valve expands, pushes the old valve aside, and restores blood flow.

Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes has performed more than 1,600 TAVRs since the treatment was approved in 2013.

“I may be the maestro orchestrating the show, but everybody has an important role—the CT surgeon, the anesthesiologist, the people prepping the valve and managing the patient,” he said. “Everyone is talking to each other. This is how you get good, quality outcomes.”

Virtua GI Urges Screening Colonoscopies

We’re raising awareness of colorectal cancer in March and the importance of colonoscopies, the most effective way to screen and prevent colorectal cancer. And now with GI Genius in all our hospitals and most of our ambulatory surgery centers, Virtua physicians can more accurately identify difficult-to-spot precancerous polyps.

“Everyone should be screened for colon cancer starting at age 45, but some high-risk individuals may need to be screened sooner,” said Gregory Seltzer, MD, medical director of gastroenterology. “We can’t stress enough the benefits of colonoscopy, which can both detect and prevent colon cancer.”

Join in the effort to spread awareness on this topic:

- **Learn Your Own Risk:** Could you be at risk for colon cancer? Take our free, five-minute [risk assessment](#). You’ll receive a custom health report and recommended next steps.
- **Teams Background:** Download the new [Colon Cancer Month background](#) in Brand Hub to liven up your Teams meetings in March and spark a conversation about getting screened.
- **Show Your Team Pride:** We want to see how your team brings awareness to colorectal cancer. Share a selfie or photos of your office on our [colleague Facebook page](#).

The Rising Case of Measles and the Importance of Vaccinations

Last week, the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) issued an alert after three people in Bergen County were confirmed to have measles. According to [state health data](#) and [news reports](#), over the last 10 years, the percentage of New Jersey children going unvaccinated has more than doubled. Martin Topiel, MD, chief infection control officer, spoke about the outbreak and the importance of being vaccinated against this highly contagious, dangerous illness. Watch on [NBC 10](#).

All In on Excellence 2025: Continuous Learning Through Gratitude

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the All In on Excellence 2025 Program. This series is entering its final stretch. If you missed a tip or two in January or February, take a moment to catch up. You can also open the app and check off any tip you watched in a group setting.

This week, we watch the [Gratitude Tip: Continuous Learning Through Gratitude](#).

Virtua Clinical Research Continues Great Strides

Clinical research continues to grow at Virtua. Last year, researchers participated in 90 clinical trials, with 26 trials already on the docket for this year. Clinicians serve an integral role in research, which includes studies with potential new therapies for cardiovascular, pulmonary, orthopedics, hepatology, GI, gynecologic diseases, and nursing. The rapid development of new drugs, therapies, and devices has created a dramatic increase in the number of clinical research studies, highlighting the need for greater participation by clinicians. Surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, NPs, PAs, and many other specialists all help improve the clinical research enterprise even when they are not participating as an investigator.

For example, clinical trials are underway in hepatic encephalopathy, hepatitis C, and rare diseases like primary biliary cholangitis. For principal investigator Nyan Latt, MD, it is also an opportunity to mentor. “Through our collaboration with Rowan, we are excited to foster the next generation of clinician-scientists dedicated to improving patient care.”

Virtua will continue research in renal denervation, which was so impactful last year. Kintur Sanghvi, MD, is the principal investigator. "We are conducting multiple clinical trials to confirm its safety and efficacy, as well as to evaluate novel devices in this space."

All clinicians are welcome to reach out to learn more on how to participate. If interested, you will receive education and training in the fundamentals of research design and methodology, as well as in-depth training on the trial itself. The trials are in many therapeutic areas, and the team will accommodate finding a study of your particular interest.

If you would like to learn more about Virtua Clinical Research, [reach Jillian Stanley](#), director of research administration.

Share With Your Patients: Feedback Sought for Improving Social Determinants of Health

Thank you to the clinicians in recent weeks who provided feedback for improving social determinants of health. Now it's the public's turn. Virtua Health and the South Jersey Health Collaborative (SJHC) are gathering data to learn more about the barriers to improving the health of South Jersey residents. The goal is to identify resources, strengths, and opportunities for collaboration and collective action. Responses will inform a plan to make South Jersey a more healthy, fair, and welcoming place to live and work for everyone.

Please feel free to share with your patients. The anonymous survey should take about 10 minutes. A printable flyer is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). To access the survey, go to https://www.research.net/r/Virtua_SJHC_25.

The survey has been extended for participation through March 21.

What Patients Are Saying About Our Clinicians

Confidence in care is a common reference among our clinician reviews. Note the following recent examples and how the patient felt about the experience, and the clinician referenced:

"I'm very happy that Dr. Schumann is my doctor. He's very knowledgeable and caring. I'm very sure he's doing what's best to care for my health issues. He always listens to my concerns and gives me his opinion and then options."

(Thomas John Schumann, DO)

“Dr. Raja was very attentive and listened to everything I had to say. He's very understanding and wants to work as a team to get me back to good health. He's got my back! That is a huge relief!” **(Altamash Raja, DO)**

“She was attentive, listened to my questions and concerns, was very knowledgeable, and professional. Great bedside manner, and very good care.” **(Sinae Yoo, APN)**

“Every midwife at this center, especially Kamil, represents exactly what a clinician should be: friendly, calm, caring, a problem solver, gentle, and effective in improving each patient's quality of life!” **(Kamil El, CNM)**

“The staff were helpful and friendly, like I had known them for years. This is my first visit, and the doctor was extremely knowledgeable and had a vested interest in making sure I had proper orthotics for my flat feet and educated me on proper diabetic foot care.” **(Sukhwinder Gigeer Bhular, DPM)**

***SJ Mag Media* Top Docs Polling Now Open**

SJ Mag Media's top doctor balloting is now open for physicians and patients.

- Click [here as a physician](#) to vote.
- Share this [Top Doc Patient Poll](#) with your patients, friends, and family.

The deadline for voting for both is March 31 at 5 p.m.

To view the physicians who were chosen by their peers and patients as an *SJ Mag Media* 2024 Top Doc, click [here](#).

Vote in the Best Hospitals Ranking

It's time to vote in the *U.S. News and World Report* “Best Hospitals” ranking. So, if you are a registered Doximity member, watch for an email about the annual member survey. Even if you don't receive the email, you can still vote by logging in to [Doximity](#).

More of Virtua in the News

Virtua Nationally Recognized by *Newsweek*

March is Women's History Month, and *Newsweek* once again published its annual list of [America's Greatest Workplaces for Women](#). For the first time, Virtua has earned a spot on this national list!

“Employers were judged based on their proactive management of a diverse workforce, sustainability and awareness, compensation and benefits, training and career progression, work-life balance, working environment, company image and corporate culture,” said Jennifer H. Cunningham, editor-in-chief of *Newsweek*.

Dr. Mazza Discusses Pope’s Health Setback

Emilio Mazza, MD, medical director of the ICU at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, has been a go-to expert discussing Pope Francis’s complex medical situation. Watch on [CBS 3](#).

Virtua Recognized for Warehouse Operation Improvements

HealthTrust Performance Group honored Virtua with its Operational Excellence Award for restructuring the health system’s warehouse operations. Virtua minimized inventory redundancies, reduced expired inventory, and standardized product lines, HealthTrust noted. These improvements have resulted in greater efficiency, resiliency, and streamlined workflows. Read in [Journal of Healthcare Contracting](#).

Family Thanks Virtua Paramedics After Special Delivery

Baby Noah couldn’t wait, slipping into his grandmother’s ready hands. Virtua paramedics rushed to help. Watch on [6ABC](#) and read in [People](#).

Thinking Safety Awareness Next Week and Every Week

National Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 9 to 15) is dedicated to advancing health care safety for patients and colleagues. Everybody always has a role to play in advancing safety in our health care system as we follow the measures for prevention and evidence-based practice. Every voice is welcomed and expected. Without that, advances in patient and colleague safety are not possible.

Checking the Running Calendar

“Crank the Food Bank” 5K Walk/Run, March 29

Celebrate National Nutrition Month with Virtua's Clinical Nutrition team by participating in their 8th Annual 5K Walk/Run on **Saturday, March 29** at Virtua Voorhees Hospital. Bring the kids, baby joggers, and strollers (sorry, no pups!) to

this impactful activity that is perfect for all fitness levels. Be sure to bring a food donation to the event to help those we serve! Prizes will be given out for the heaviest food donation.

Crank the Food Bank benefits Virtua "Eat Well" Food Access Programs' Colleague Market and Food Farmacy locations. These programs provide free food, essential resources, and nutrition education to hundreds of individuals each year.

For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/CrankTheFoodBank25>.

Date Set for “Run With the Docs,” June 8

[Run with the Docs](#) is set for **Sunday, June 8** at the Virtua Voorhees Hospital campus. The popular 5K run and 1-mile walk supports Virtua’s Perinatal Bereavement and Palliative Care Program, which helps to ensure that families who experience pregnancy or infant loss have access to a multidisciplinary range of services that provide comfort and support.

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. The opening ceremony is at 8a.m. followed by the run and walk at 8:30 a.m. For more information, including registration details, [click here](#). Click to [view and post the flyer](#).



Virtua Health

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